

Nation's debt limit, knowing that it would fail. The vote occurred specifically after the stock market closed because they knew the harsh effect that this game could have on the market. This was simply an effort to distract the public away from the disastrous attempt to end Medicare as we know it.

Under their plan, from day one seniors will see an increase in the cost of prescription drugs and preventive health care. They no longer want to discuss the vote they took to end Medicare and force seniors to pay more for less.

We all agree that smart, responsible budget cuts are needed. That is why Democrats and Republicans from the House, the Senate, and the administration are working together on a plan. We should allow the negotiators to continue their work in good faith with open discussions on the future of our economy and how to decrease our deficit.

Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to play games with the American public. We must focus on creating jobs, jobs, and more jobs, and move our economy forward.

ROBERT F. ELLSWORTH TRIBUTE

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former Congressman from Kansas's Third Congressional District who recently passed. Robert F. Ellsworth served Kansas in the United States Congress for three terms during the 1960s. He was a proud Jayhawk, graduating from the University of Kansas, and he served our country admirably in both World War II and the Korean War as an officer in the United States Navy.

He was known as a candid and independent-minded legislator during his tenure in Congress. A personal adviser to President Richard Nixon and a confidant of Kansas Senator Bob Dole, he also served as an ambassador to NATO and as the Deputy Secretary of Defense under President Gerald Ford. After leaving politics, he founded Hamilton BioVentures, a company focusing on investment in emerging life science technologies.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanor; children William and Anne; as well as stepchildren John, Sarah, and William. My heart, and the heart of the Third District, is with him and his family during this difficult time.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

(Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, it's "getting ridiculous." That's what Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Doug Brennan said about the Department of Homeland Security's failure to issue

regulations implementing Federal immigration in the Northern Mariana Islands. And I agree, it is getting ridiculous.

Three years since the law was enacted, 18 months since it took effect, two oversight hearings, letters from congressional leaders, meeting after meeting, and still no regulations. Workers don't know what their status will be 5 months from now. Businesses can't plan for the future. "It's putting the brakes on the economy," the chamber president says. And what does DHS say? The regulations will be released when the regulations are released.

That is no way for a Federal agency to fulfill its responsibilities. We will get to it when we get to it? Federal immigration was supposed to benefit the Marianas, improve the economy. Instead, it's making things worse. As we think about funding Homeland Security today, Homeland Security should be explaining why it isn't doing its job issuing these long-overdue regulations for the Northern Mariana Islands.

DEBT LIMIT VOTE AS POLITICAL STUNT

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, last night our Republican colleagues scheduled an empty vote on the debt ceiling, a political stunt with no serious plan. Last week, the majority leader tried to use a natural disaster as political leverage in their ideological fight over the budget. And last month and again today, Republicans propose ending Medicare as we know it to pay for tax giveaways for millionaires and giant oil companies.

I'm holding another town hall meeting tomorrow, telephone town hall, with my constituents to talk about these issues and what our national priorities should be. The Republican extreme ideological war is a disturbing trend, using national emergencies, the full faith and credit of the United States, and our seniors' health care as if they're bargaining chips. The American people and the Missourians I represent deserve better.

It's time to come together like adults to find serious solutions to our complex problems. And it's time to stop threatening Medicare, important institutions, our national credit, and the national commitment to lend a hand to those in need, and especially those suffering through natural disasters. We can solve this without trying to scare markets or scare seniors. Let's get serious about reducing our deficit and growing jobs.

□ 1220

BLAME EVERYTHING FOR DEBT

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, listening to some of the Republicans that were speaking here earlier today, they want to blame Medicare, early childhood education, grants to firefighters for the debt that we have when everybody knows that at the end of the Clinton administration, this country was running a surplus.

Then we had Bush tax cuts; that's about a trillion dollars. Then we have a couple wars; that's a trillion dollars. Then there is a collapse on Wall Street under the Bush administration. That's \$2 trillion. That will turn anybody's budget upside down.

But the Republicans want to take it out of Medicare. They want to dismantle Medicare. They have never liked Medicare to begin with because it really works for middle America, for our seniors. We can't let that happen. We cannot allow them to dismantle Medicare just because of these other things. They want to protect millionaires, billionaires and oil companies. We are not going to let them do that.

REPUBLICANS HAVE VIVID IMAGINATION

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot in the media about the political tea party. You know, there is another kind of tea party; that's where children play with their imaginary friends.

We saw an example of that kind of imagination last night in this Chamber. We saw Republicans bring a bill to the floor and then vote to defeat it, not to raise the debt ceiling in spite of the fact that they passed a budget that will raise the national debt by \$8 trillion over the next 10 years. They imagine that that \$8 trillion will magically disappear.

Another example of their vivid imagination is believing that the American people will sit back while they end Medicare, turn over seniors' health care to insurance companies and ask them to pay up to 70 percent of the cost of their health care.

This is not an imaginary world. These are real people with real problems, and the American people are not going to sit back while the Republican Party plays with their imaginary friends.

JOBS WITHOUT CREDIT CHECKS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday the New York Times editorially commended bills that give people an opportunity to get jobs without having credit checks run on them. In this country today, credit checks are run on almost 65 percent of all job applicants, and sometimes they are used to deny people jobs.

The fact is, even the industry lobbyist said in Oregon last year that credit checks have no correlation to fraud in the workplace or a person's ability to perform a job. Yet because of the credit industry, credit checks are still required.

We have a bill in Congress, the Equal Employment for All bill, that would outlaw such a practice. Five States have outlawed such a practice and 20 States are considering it. We need to create jobs and give everybody a chance. Many people have bad credit because of this economy, because of the recession, because of health care costs that almost forced them into bankruptcy or have, or divorces. They should not be denied the chance to have a job, a second chance.

We should pass the Equal Employment for All bill and give all Americans a chance for employment.

AMERICANS AT RISK

(Mr. CLARKE of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Americans are at risk. They are at risk of having their homes and their businesses demolished, of being injured and even killed, either by a natural disaster such as the tornados that have hit us recently or through a terrorist attack that will more likely come from within the United States.

This is not the time to cut the Homeland Security budget, and that's why today I propose taking military aid to Afghanistan and redirecting it to better equip and to hire more firefighters, more police officers, more emergency medical providers. State and local governments don't have the money to provide these resources because our home values have plummeted due to the foreclosure crisis, which this Congress has failed to address effectively.

There is one responsibility, though, that this Congress must honor, our duty to protect the American people. We, who live in this country, deserve to be safe.

Restore the cuts to the Homeland Security budget, and redirect the money from Afghanistan to protect Americans.

CONDEMNING GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn, yes, condemn, the Government of Vietnam for continuing its appalling human rights record by conducting unjust trials, sham trials of seven citizens who asked for land reform.

This past week, the people's court of Ben Tre unfairly convicted seven land

rights activists to years of imprisonment and probation.

Ms. Tran Thi Thuy was sentenced to 8 years, Pastor Duong Kim Khai was imprisoned for 6 years, and Mr. Pham Van Thong received a 7-year sentence simply for asking for their land back from the Communist Government of Vietnam. This recent trial was no different than Vietnam's past trials where there is no due process.

I hope that my colleagues will look at the record of human rights with respect to Vietnam and join me in urging the Government of Vietnam to drop these false charges.

COMMENDING MINNEAPOLIS EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I represent Minneapolis, Minnesota. Recently, my district was hit by a tornado. That tornado caused damage to well over 535 houses and took the lives of two of my constituents.

I just want to commend all those people who stepped forward to do the right thing for the people who were victims. Whether you were serving meals for people who were put out of their homes; whether you were making games for the children of the displaced to be able to have some joy in their lives after such a difficult period; or whether you were an emergency responder, police, fire, emergency, medical; or whether you were a member of our local government, I want everyone in my district to know, everyone in the Fifth Congressional District to know, that I am so proud of the work that you did.

I want folks to know that it is times of crisis like this tornado in which the best of us comes out, when we find our charitable spirit, when we find our courage, when we find all those things that sometimes are lacking in everyday life. I want to let you know that on the faces of the children who have had a warm place to stay after their own homes were knocked to the ground and trees went through people's roofs, that I want to thank all those first responders, all those public servants, all those volunteers who stepped up and made a very difficult situation just a little bit better for everyone who was involved.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, we could never forget those two citizens who lost their lives when they were hit by this tornado. It was a tragedy for them and their families, and we will keep them in our thoughts and in our hearts and in our minds as we move forward.

DEBT RESOLUTION

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the partisan debt resolution was dead on ar-

rival yesterday. But what really should have been DOA is the Republican plan to end Medicare and turn seniors over to private insurance companies.

Today, despite the outright rejection of this plan from south Florida to western New York and all across America, Republicans will try to deem and pass the reckless Ryan budget. That's right: those who decried "deem and pass" during the health care reform debate now seek to use it to end Medicare.

In fact, it was the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee who, in an effort to stoke fear over the Affordable Care Act, derisively labeled deem and pass the Slaughter Solution. Apparently using deem and pass to help insure 150 million Americans is an abomination but using it to end Medicare, that's courageous.

What would truly be courageous is if my Republican colleagues abandoned their plan to gut Medicare and Medicaid and instead supported deficit reduction that ends giveaways to Big Oil and more \$100,000 tax cuts for millionaires.

□ 1230

RAISING THE DEBT CEILING

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Last night's vote on raising the debt ceiling is further proof that the Republican majority plans to hold the full faith and credit of the United States hostage while they demand as ransom extreme cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

News flash: The American people simply won't sacrifice Medicare and Medicaid and the guaranteed benefits they provide.

Seniors across the country are speaking out: Hands off Medicare, and, Don't slash Medicaid's health and long-term care benefits to pay for tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires, Big Oil and companies that offshore jobs.

Unlike the Republicans, Democrats are serious about responsible and real deficit reduction.

The Republican plan actually increases unemployment and the deficits, ends Medicare, further erodes our middle class and hurts poor children, all to increase the fortunes of oil companies, millionaires and billionaires. This is a plan that goes against the majority of Americans, and we won't have it.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2017, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 287 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 287

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the